

Serial No.: 10/698,624
Docket No.: No.56
ORI.079

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REMARKS

Applicants concurrently file herewith an Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter for three (3) excess independent claims.

Entry of this Amendment is proper because it places the Application in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-13 and 15-17 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Allowable claims 3, 5-6, 15 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 2 and 16 have been amended to depend upon allowable claim 3. While Applicants submit that all the claims are allowable, claim 14 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in the interest of expediting prosecution.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein or later are not made to distinguish the invention over the prior art or narrow the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein or later should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 10-13 have been allowed and that claims 3-9, 15 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 3, 5-6, 15 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that claims 2, 4, 8-9 and 16 depend upon allowable claim 3, and claim 7 depends upon allowable claim 6, and therefore likewise allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 2-13 and 15-17, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.


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Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: July 7, 2006


J. Bradley Wright, Esq.
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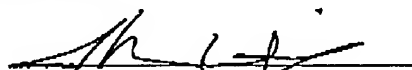
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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment was filed by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Examiner James N. Smalley, Group Art Unit #3727 at fax number (571) 273-8300 this 7th day of July, 2006.

Date: 7/7/06


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